



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer To:
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EMS TRANSMISSION: 7/11/05
Information Bulletin No. **CA-2005-054**

To: AFOs

From: State Director

Subject: Review of the California-BLM Animal Sensitive Species List **DD: 8/15/2005**

In response to recent requests by field office personnel to add species to California-BLM's animal sensitive species list and the impending update by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) of its list of Bird Species of Special Concern, each Field Office is requested to review the current list (see Attachment 1) and submit any recommendations for additions or deletions to this list to CA-930 (Attn: Ed Lorentzen) by August 15, 2005. There is a link to this list on the following California-BLM website: <<http://www.ca.blm.gov/pa/biology/index.html>>. The latest draft of CDFG's Bird Species of Special Concern list, which is expected to be officially published in the near future, is provided as Attachment 2 for background purposes. Additional information about the criteria for including species on CDFG's updated list, the draft scores of nominated taxa, etc., can be found at <http://www.prbo.org/cms/index.php?mid=230>.

Attachment 1 does not include federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed species, candidate species, or State-listed species. These special status species are already covered by BLM Manual 6840. It is BLM policy under Manual Section 6840.06(D) to provide sensitive species with the same level of protection that is given to candidate species. BLM Manual Section 6840.06(C) defines that level of protection as follows: "The BLM shall carry out management, consistent with the principles of multiple use, for the conservation of candidate species and their habitats and shall ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out do not contribute to the need to list any of these species as threatened or endangered."

The criteria for designating BLM sensitive species are described in BLM Manual Section 6840.06(E) and provide that a taxa may be so designated by a State Director if it:

1. Could become endangered or extirpated from a state, or within a significant portion of its range in the foreseeable future;
2. Is under status review by the FWS and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service;

3. Is undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in: (1) habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution; and/or (2) population or density such that federally listed, proposed, candidate, or State listed status may become necessary.
4. Typically consists of small and widely dispersed populations; or
5. Inhabits ecological refugia, or specialized or unique habitats.

Existing California-BLM policy concerning the designation of sensitive species identifies two additional conditions that must be met before a species may be considered as BLM sensitive. These are (1) a significant population of the species must occur on BLM-administered lands, and (2) the potential must exist for significant improvement of the species' condition through BLM management.

In accordance with the BLM-CDFG Master Memorandum of Understanding, CDFG will be given an opportunity to review and comment on proposed revisions to the California-BLM animal sensitive species list before it is updated. CA-930 will consolidate all field office nominations submitted per this Information Bulletin and distribute a draft of the updated list to CDFG and all CA-BLM Field Managers prior to the end of the fiscal year. Suggested additions or deletions to the current California-BLM animal sensitive species list should be submitted electronically to CA-930 (Attn: Ed Lorentzen), along with brief statement of rationale, by August 15, 2005.

Questions regarding this information bulletin may be directed to Ed Lorentzen at (916) 978-4646.

Signed by:
Mike Pool
State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

Attachments (2)

- 1 - California-BLM Animal Sensitive Species List, Updated April 2004 (2 pp.)
- 2 - California Bird Species of Special Concern List (10/17/2003 DRAFT) (3 pp.)

Distribution

CA-920 (Attn: Leroy Mohorich)
CA-310 (Attn: Paul Roush)
CA-610 (Attn: Larry LaPre)
WO-230, MS 204 LS (Attn: Peggy Olwell)